

Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



JOEY STRICKLAND  
SECRETARY

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA  
VETERANS' HOME

LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

To Whom It May Concern:

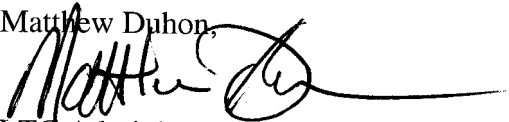
I am requesting an advisory opinion from the Louisiana Ethics Board on whether the Code of Governmental Ethics would prevent my wife from being a part-time employee of Heart of Hospice (HOH) if HOH entered into an agreement for hospice services with my agency, the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home (SWLVH) in Jennings, Louisiana.

In July of 2015, I was the Administrator of the facility and my wife, Rachael Duhon, was offered employment as an Account Executive for HOH. As an Account Executive in the Jennings market, she would have been responsible for marketing to SWLVH and had a financial incentive to work with the account. Due to this personal relationship and the nature of my wife's future position at HOH, the Ethics Board advised that it would be a violation of the Ethics Code for her to be employed by HOH while the company provided hospice services to SWLVH. As a result, SWLVH ended its agreement with HOH.

Since the Ethics Board's decision, Rachael Duhon no longer works in a capacity where she has any responsibility for SWLVH, nor does she receive compensation for any business arrangements that HOH conducts here. In addition, HOH has been acquired by LHC Group, further separating her role from my sphere of influence. In her new role as a part time wage-earning employee, she is no longer working on commission. Her compensation will not be affected by an agreement between HOH and SWLVH. Rachael Duhon is not an owner of HOH. In addition, no money would be exchanged as a result of an agreement between HOH and SWLVH. HOH would provide services to the veterans living at our facility and HOH would bill outside agencies for payment.

HOH has built a strong reputation in Louisiana, and many of my peers have worked directly with their team to manage veterans' care. As a We Honor Veterans organization, I know their staff are committed to honoring the unique needs of veteran patients and meeting all veterans where they are with the appropriate physical, emotional, and spiritual support. Given my long-standing experience working with HOH in the past, I strongly believe the HOH team will be a valuable resource for seriously ill veterans in our community and I would like the benefit of having them serve this facility. I look forward to having HOH back in this facility.

Matthew Duhon,

  
LTC Administrator



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT  
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